

REMARKS

Claims 3-22 are currently pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 2 being canceled, Claims 3-6, 8, 10, 11, 19, and 20 being amended, and Claims 21 and 22 being added. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled Claim 2. With respect to Claim 20, Applicant has amended Claim 20 and respectfully submits that amended Claim 20 complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 6, 8, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshioka (U.S. Patent No. 6,474,433). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled Claims 1 and 2, and is respectfully traversed with respect to amended Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 19. Specifically, Applicant has amended subject-matter allowable Claim 5 into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims, and amended Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 19 to depend from Claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, and 19 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka in view of Japanese patent no. 402290721. This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claim. Specifically, Applicant has amended Claim 20 to incorporate all of the limitations of subject-matter allowable claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that amended Claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims, as amended, are requested, and an early allowance is solicited. If the Examiner believes it would further advance the prosecution of the present application, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 3-6, 8, 10, 11, 19, and 20 have been amended in the following manner:

3. (Twice amended) A differential according to claim [2] 5, wherein the support member and the clutch are axially arranged to each other.

4. (Twice amended) A differential according to claim [1] 5, wherein the drive gear is located in radial alignment with the support member.

5. (Twice amended) A differential [according to claim 2,] comprising:
a drive gear;
a differential housing operative to be driven by the drive gear;
a support member located between the drive gear and the differential housing for supporting the drive gear to the differential housing for relative rotation; and
a clutch operative to interconnect the drive gear and the differential housing with each other, [wherein] the clutch [comprises:] including a first clutch provided between the drive gear and the differential housing[;], and an actuator for operating the first clutch,
wherein the first clutch is located axially between the support member and the actuator.

6. (Twice amended) A differential according to claim [2] 5, wherein the support member supports at least two points of the drive gear.

8. (Twice amended) A differential according to claim [2] 5, wherein the support member is located in alignment with the clutch.

10. (Amended) A differential according to claim 9, wherein the actuator further [comprising:] comprises an electromagnetic system for engaging the second clutch.

11. (Amended) A differential according to claim 10, wherein the electromagnetic system [comprising:] comprises:

a core; and

a rotor located between the core and the second clutch for magnetically conducting therebetween, the rotor being supported on the differential housing.

19. (Amended) A differential according to claim [2] 5, wherein the support member comprises:

bearings arranged in axial alignment with each other.

20. (Twice amended) A differential system comprising:

a reduction gear;

a drive gear operative to be driven by the reduction gear;

a differential operative to be driven by the drive gear;

a support member located between the drive gear and the differential for supporting the drive gear to the differential for relative rotation; and

a clutch operative to interconnect the drive gear and the differential with each other,

wherein the clutch includes a first clutch provided between the drive gear and the differential, and an actuator for operating the first clutch, and

wherein the first clutch is located axially between the support member and the actuator.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant(s) petition(s) for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 482782005700.

Respectfully submitted,

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